

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 36

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

Sept. 9, 2005

In brief

POW/MIA luncheon

A luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Enlisted Club. Ticket reservations must be made today. For tickets or more information, contact a unit first sergeant.

FY close out

The 325 Fighter Wing claims office will not be accepting claims from Sept. 19 until Sept. 30. This time is needed to coordinate with the accounting and finance office and review accounts. The office will resume normal claims operations on Oct. 3. Exceptions will be made for those claimants whose two-year statute of limitation will lapse during that period. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Overton, claims NCO in charge, at 283-3271.

Hurricane relief

Those wishing to donate to hurricane victims may call the American Red Cross at (800) 435-7669, or the Salvation Army at (800) 725-2769. The Red Cross is only taking monetary donations at this time.

What's inside



Gen. Moseley swears in as 18th CSAF
... **PAGE 4**

Reaching out

Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Overton, right, 325th Fighter Wing Base Legal office, and Kathryn Teagarden (middle), 325th Medical Operations Squadron Life Skills Support Center, give toys to a young boy at the Chapel's luncheon for DOD evacuees of Hurricane Katrina Sept. 2. Tyndall Airmen volunteered their time to bring and serve food, as well as hand out toys to children. For more on Tyndall's involvement in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, see Pages 12-13.



Chrissy Cuttita

AFAS establishes nationwide relief fund

CAPT. GIDEON MCCLURE

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Air Force Aid Society has established a nationwide relief fund to help those Air Force families affected by the hurricane.

Donations to the AFAS Hurricane Relief Fund will be accepted directly from individuals, corporations and organizations, both military and civilian. Monetary contributions may be made by check or credit card.

Credit card donations may be made by calling 1-703-607-3073 or 1-800-769-8951 or by a secure online credit card form located on the Air Force Aid Society Web site: www.afas.org. Checks should be made out to the Air Force Aid Society and reference the hurricane relief fund.

"The Air Force Aid Society's goal is to be there when you need us," said retired

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr., Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer and former vice commander of Air Education and Training Command.

"Due to the overwhelming number of requests from individuals who want to help, establishing the relief fund will allow us to track contributions and disbursements donated for this purpose," he continued. "At all times it is important to look out for our fellow Airmen, and at times like this it is even more crucial."

In addition to receiving donations, the AFAS is also ready to help individuals who have been affected by the hurricane.

If you need assistance, please visit any



2nd Lt. William Powell

Master Sgt. David Brett, Tyndall Air Force Aid Society case worker, hands a \$500 check courtesy of the Tyndall AFAS to Melissa Crumley at the Family Support Center Saturday. Ms. Crumley is the wife of Senior Airman Jesse Crumley, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Air Force Aid Society office or contact the Web site or phone number above.

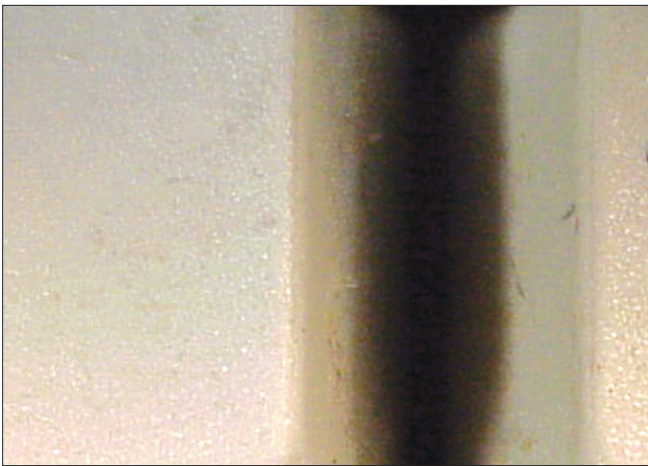


Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

A super bowl

Staff Sgt. Amy Glenn, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron/Detachment 1 services instructor, rolls a bowling ball down the lane during the squadron’s Hurricane Katrina relief fundraiser Wednesday at Raptor Lanes. Each player paid \$10 to bowl. RED HORSE Airmen have also volunteered to work at the Panama City Fairgrounds as part of relief efforts.

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify This” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The ‘prize’ can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

The winner for the Sept. 2 “Identify This” is Airman 1st Class Ryan Reyes, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit. He correctly guessed that the photo was the bottom of a computer mouse. Congratulations, Airman Reyes! Come claim your prize!

ON THE STREET

What did you do this Labor Day weekend?



“I helped out with the Red Cross at the Panama City Fairgrounds for hurricane relief.”

2ND LT. CANDEE HERBERT
325th Operations Support Squadron



“I went to a hospital in Gainesville, Fla., to visit a young man recovering from brain surgery.”

MASTER SGT. DERRICK MOORE
325th Security Forces Squadron



“I watched movies with my friends.”

SENIOR AIRMAN DESERE ROSENAU
325th Communications Squadron



“I packed up my place so I could move.”

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DREW WANZER
325th Mission Support Group

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Jumper’s last site picture: Be great Wingmen

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
Former Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Over the past year, I have stressed the importance of Airmen looking out for one another, especially in light of our alarmingly high suicide rate in 2004.

I asked that we all make the extra effort to look for troubling signs in our co-workers – that we be great Wingmen. Our rates have gone down, but each loss that we take is one too many. The efforts of some great Wingmen have saved the lives of some of our comrades in arms, but now I urge each of you to continue to provide mutual support.

In my 39-year career, I have always been proud of how our Air Force takes care of its own. It sets us apart from those in the private sector and it is something I will deeply miss in retirement. This attitude is firmly rooted in the profession of arms and is part of our common Airman culture. Our

inaugural Wingman Day occurred after four months in which 24 Airmen took their own lives.

Discussing the stressors we experience, re-emphasizing available supportive services, and talking about what it takes to be a great Wingman provided an opportunity for us to join together and examine how we can strengthen our common Airman culture at every level.

Why has focusing on our Wingman responsibilities contributed to lowering our suicide rates?

“I am asking each of you to make being a Wingman a habit and not just a slogan.”

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
Former Chief of Staff of the Air Force



I believe part of the answer lies in our core value of “Service Before Self.” The foundation of this value is respect – respect for our Air Force, for ourselves, and for our fellow Airmen. As we give and gain respect, we develop our sense of what it means to be Airmen and create a community to support those who need our help. Airmen support and protect their fellow Airmen. Airmen help Airmen in need. Airmen work with Airmen to deliver precision results wherever and whenever needed.

Being a great Wingman means recog-

nizing when other Airmen are in distress and having the courage to care. I am asking each of you to make being a Wingman a habit and not just a slogan.

Wingman Day isn’t nearly enough. While providing a good opportunity to reflect on how we take care of our own, simply scheduling one day a year is just a beginning. We must each make a conscious choice each and every day, ensuring that we are thinking, preparing, and acting in accord with our core values and serving as wingmen to our fellow Airmen, whether they are active, reserve, guardsman, or civilian. We should ask ourselves daily, “Who are my Wingmen, how are they doing, and what have I done to support them today?”

That’s where “Service Before Self” begins – with you and your teammates. That’s what makes our United States Air Force the greatest Air and Space force in the world.

Remaining silent is not admission of guilt - it is your right

CAPT. W. DAVID VERNON
Area Defense Counsel

The right against self-incrimination is one of our most fundamental rights. Unfortunately, these rights are rarely understood or respected.

In the short time that I have been Tyndall’s Area Defense Counsel, I have been surprised to discover how many military members do not understand their rights against self-incrimination. It is not because they are not aware of its existence. Television and movie dialogue have made everyone aware of the right to remain silent. The problem is in its understanding, application and respect.

Many believe that remaining silent speaks volumes. *He’ll talk if he has nothing to hide.* The misunderstanding and misapplication of this fundamental right is extremely concerning. It discredits the right and strikes

at one of the pillars of our Constitution.

For rights to be exercised, they must be understood and respected. Silence is not an indication of guilt. It is an action taken by someone who chooses to enjoy a liberty bestowed upon them by our founding fathers. Were it not exercised, the right itself would be useless.

Article 31 from the Manual for Courts-Martial United States explains this right in full. It states that no military member may compel any person to say anything that *may tend to incriminate* him or herself. There are no justifications or ‘technicalities’ that would allow anyone to escape the plain meaning. If the plain meaning is accepted, its understanding is simple.

Respecting such a right should be no less difficult when one considers that it is the Fifth Amendment to our Con-



● SEE SILENT PAGE 21

Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Action Line
Call 283-2255

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

General Moseley swears in as AF's 18th chief of staff

1st Lt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Gen. T. Michael Moseley was sworn in as the Air Force's 18th chief of staff in a ceremony here Sept. 2 that also featured the retirement of Gen. John P. Jumper after 39 years of service.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Pete Geren presided over the ceremony. Also taking part in the ceremony were Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers.

Secretary Rumsfeld thanked General Jumper for his "exemplary service" to the nation.

"Nowhere except in the military service can you wake up every day and know that our country is safer because of you," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "John Jumper, you can do that literally every day for the rest of your life."

"You've given us a great Air Force," General Moseley told General Jumper during the ceremony. "We are all going to make it our life's work for you to be proud of us and to continue on the path that you have given us. It is our continued promise that we Airmen will be the best in the world at what we do — dominating air and space."

Mr. Geren said the Air Force is in good hands with General Moseley.

"With General Jumper's retirement this is a bittersweet day for the Air Force," Mr. Geren said. "But we're gaining a new chief of staff who has been proven in battle over Iraq and Afghanistan. As the vice chief, he has been directly involved in running the Air Force for the last two years, and he's ready."

General Myers said there is no better Airman to take the reins of the Air Force than General Moseley.

"General Moseley knows a lot about how to deliver air power and what kind of air power to deliver to make effects happen on the battle space," General Myers said. "During this critical time, General Moseley and his wife are exactly the right people, and we welcome them on board."

General Moseley said the continued success of the Air Force hinges on the efforts of thousands of Airmen engaged in combat operations worldwide or performing humanitarian relief in the tragic aftermath of the hurricane on the Gulf Coast.

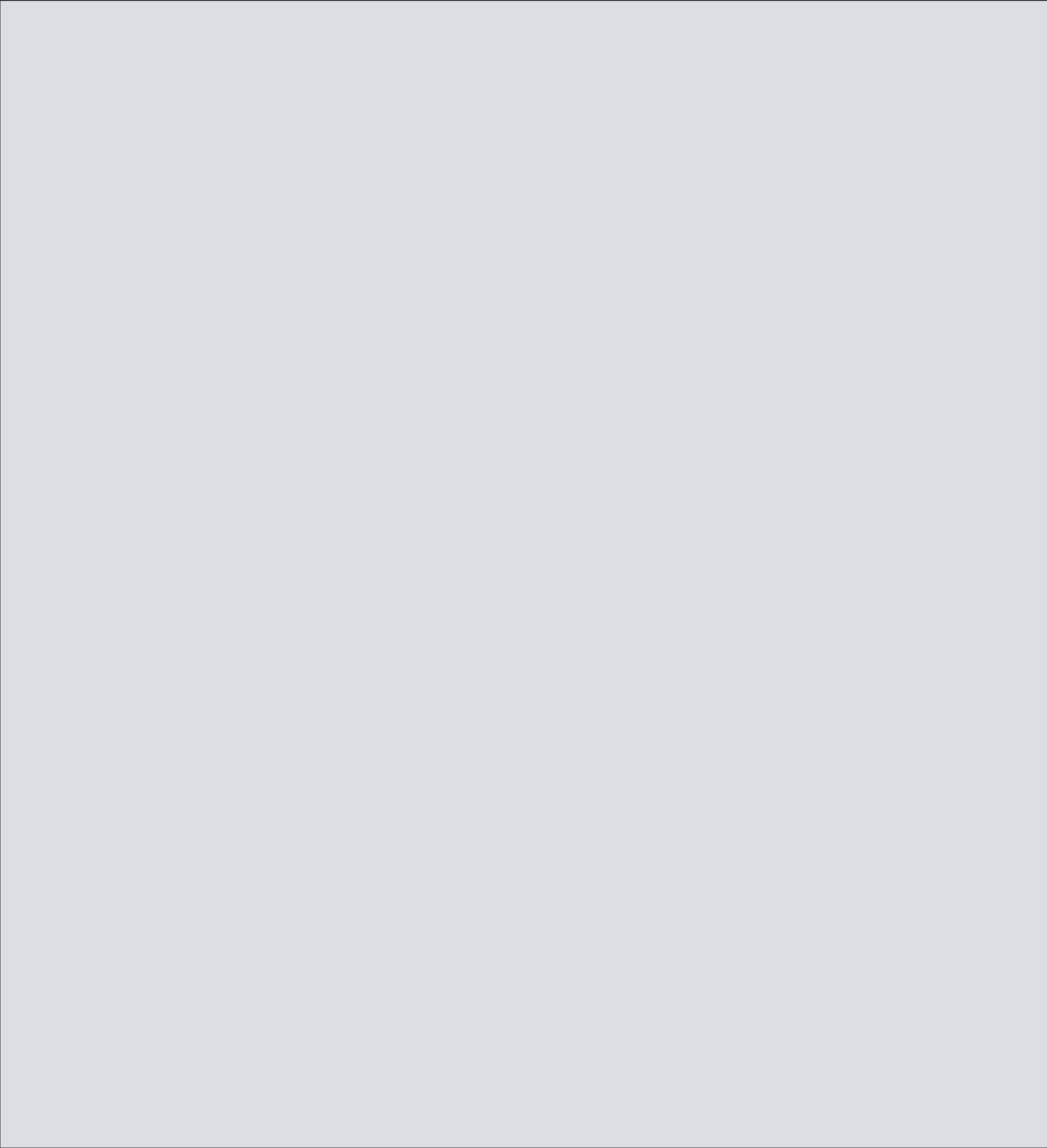
"This magnificent Air Force is engaged across the globe," General Moseley said. "The Airmen you see here today, and watching this ceremony around the world, are



Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Gen. John P. Jumper (left) passes the Chief of Staff Guidon to Gen. T. Michael Moseley during a ceremony Sept. 2 at Andrews AFB, Md.

our greatest resource and our greatest power. These Airmen are what makes the Air Force the most powerful air and space force in the world."



Hurricane relief efforts underway at Keesler AFB

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. - Hurricane Katrina tried to give Keesler AFB, Miss., a knockout blow. But though it left a huge path of destruction in its wake – it did not succeed.

The massive storm devastated the base. No doubt about that, base officials said. And it claimed the base’s once vibrant training mission. But while staggered, Keesler still stands.

“We’re in survival mode right now,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Galletto, a command post controller. His job — made even more critical by the circumstances — is to pass and receive information. “So we can’t really look forward to, or anticipate, what’s to come.”

But whatever the future holds for the Gulf Coast, he said, things “will not be the same here.”

Fortunately, Keesler was more prepared than some for the hurricane. The base practiced hurricane evacuations and the Keesler community made it to shelters. Then the storm’s winds and tidal surge took most of their homes. Many remain in shelters. There are few places on the base that did not sustain some kind of damage. Afterward, the base breathed a collective sigh of relief, said Brig. Gen. William T. Lord, the 81st Training Wing commander. Still, he said, there is apprehension in the air. People

are asking “what are we supposed to do next?”

“There are a lot questions, and we’re attempting, with the help of a lot of folks, to answer those questions,” the general said.

But with the Air Force mobilized to help in rescue and relief efforts, the answers may take some time.

One thing is for sure, now the base has a new mission. It is to safely recover and evacuate its people and then bed down the follow-on forces that will help the region recover, the general said.

“The main mission now is the recovery of our people,” the general said. Even with its limited communications, the base has accounted for “approximately 98 percent” of its people, he said. Out of the 16,000 at the base before the storm, by Sept. 2, only 127 remain unaccounted for.

“We believe those are people who got out of the local area” before the storm, the general said.

During the storm, 6,006 people were in base shelters.

The general said the base is evacuating

people who no longer have a mission at the base, “since we can’t do technical training in facilities that are destroyed.” Earlier in the week, Air Force transport aircraft landed at the base’s damaged runway and took critical hospital patients to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

At Air Education and Training Command Randolph AFB, Texas, Col. Susan Helms said, “Training at Keesler is suspended for the foreseeable future.”

General Lord put that more into perspective, saying training at the base might not start again until March, “and it may be longer” than that.

And as far as what will happen at Keesler, Colonel Helms said, “It’s too soon to know the exact recovery plan for all Keesler technical training programs, or how long students will have to remain at their new training locations.”

What is clear is that everyone at Keesler must move somewhere else. The Air Force is evacuating students to other bases. And the evacuation of the rest of the people at the base has already started.

Students are leaving aboard Air Force cargo planes for other bases. More than 1,000 Airmen fresh out of basic training, or in their first few weeks of technical training, left for Sheppard AFB, Texas, Sept. 1. There, personnel officials will decide their future. General Lord said some may receive their Air Force specialty if they were within a few days of graduating.

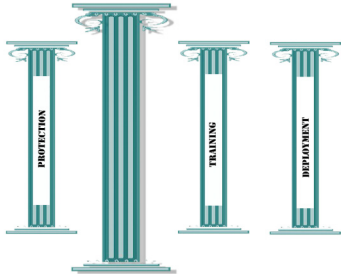
If not, he said, “They may be reclassified and go to other places to train.” At Sheppard, another huge technical training base, the evacuated students might just wait for another assignment. The commander of the 82nd Training Wing, Brig. Gen. James A. Whitmore, said his people are trying to make their transition as seamless as possible.

“We all need to be very sensitive to the fact that these are very young Airmen new to our Air Force,” General Whitmore said. “We need to provide comfort for them.”

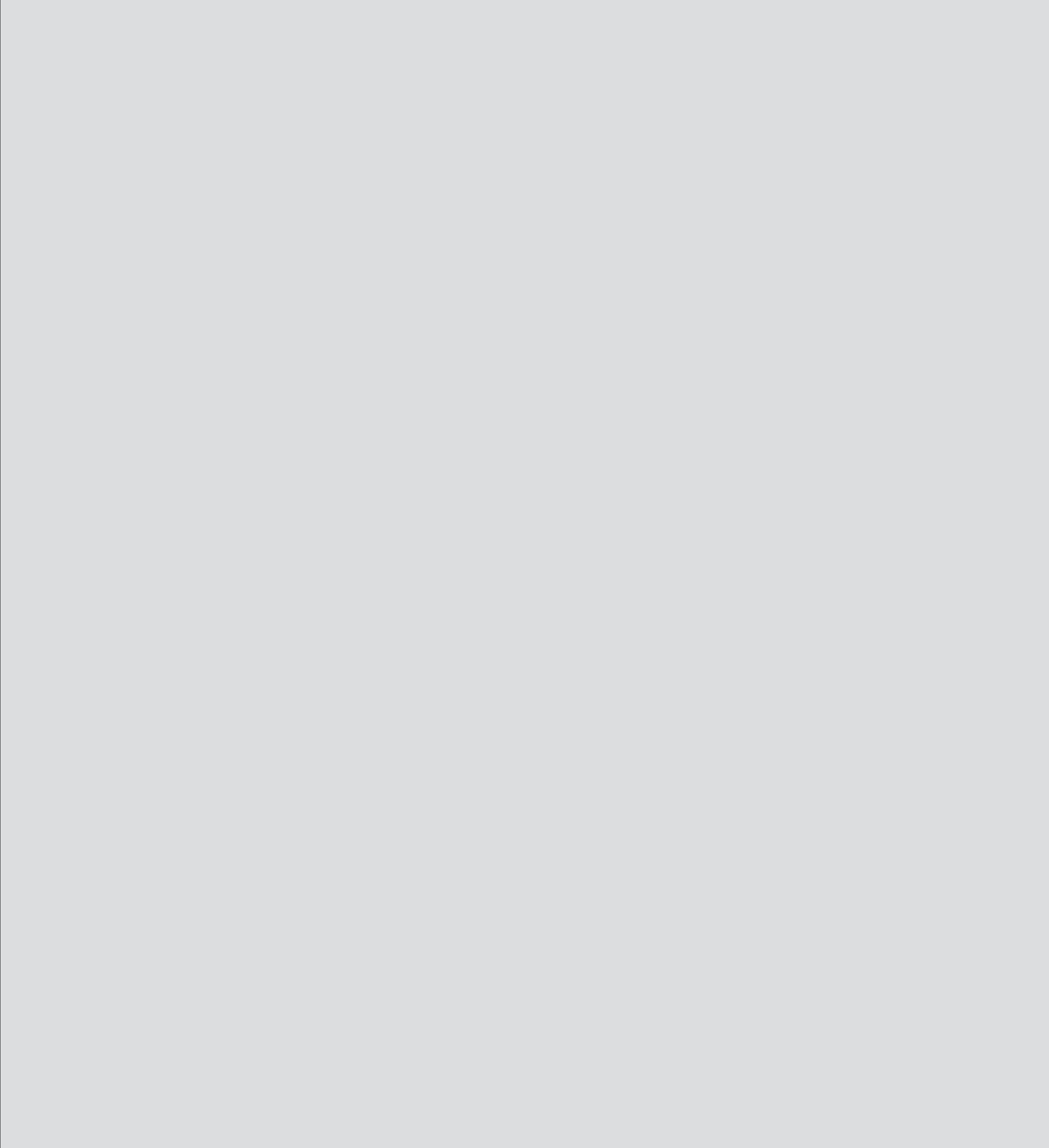
Other students at Keesler are also leaving. About half of the nearly 1,300 there on temporary duty for upgrade training have already left the base. Most in their own vehicles. The rest, General Lord said, will go to Maxwell AFB, Ala.

“We need to evacuate them so they can get back with their families,” General Lord

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



● SEE RELIEF PAGE 21



Q & A: 325th MSG commander

(Editor's note: The following is a question and answer session with Col. Marc Luiken, 325th Mission Support Group commander.)

Q. What goals do you have for your organization, as the new commander?

I want people to 'want' to come to Tyndall, not because it is on the beach, but because of the great facilities, living conditions and work environment. This is a good assignment; the local area has a lot to offer. I want to take what we have and make it even better.

Q. What motivation/motto has inspired you to succeed?

Whatever you do, work with all of your heart. Attitude is a huge ingredient for success, regardless of what job you have.

Q. What words of encouragement do you have for your Airmen to strive for success in their careers?

We have the best people (in the Air Force) you will ever work with. If you think you can make more money in a job outside the Air Force ... it may be true, but you will miss the people.

Q. Why did you join the Air Force and what has kept you in?

My dad was in the Navy, and I always wanted to be a pilot. I never intended on making this a career. I continue to serve my country because of the people and opportunities I have been afforded.



Isaac Gibson

Col. Marc Luiken is the 325th Mission Support Group commander.

Q. What is the most important attribute for a commander to have?

A leader must have a vision, be enthusiastic about that vision, and communicate that vision.

Q. What life-changing experience in your military career has made you the person and leader that you are today?

My defining moment was when I was told, years ago, that I would not make major, due to the state of the promotion system and how circumstances had played out. Based on that information, I made plans to get out of the military ... but it (the prediction) didn't come true. At that moment, I realized there must be a greater reason for me to serve. I realized that this wasn't just a job.

Air War College courses

- All current non-resident enrollees must complete their course by Oct. 1, 2006.
 - Recent enrollees who do not think they can complete the course by Oct. 1, 2006 may disenroll now and wait until 2006 to enroll in the new program. Tests they have completed or "credits" earned will not transfer to the new program.
 - From Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, no new enrollees will be allowed. Current students can re-enroll if they miss a test, etc.
 - On Jan. 1, 2006 the new program begins. The AWC non-residence course will now be referred to as the Senior Leaders course, but will have the same qualifications and will be worth the same credit. AWC will take new enrollments. It is highly recommended for lieutenant colonels and colonels to take this course prior to attending and in-residence program.
 - The AWC in-residence program will still be referred to as AWC.
- (Courtesy of the Tyndall Education Center)



Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — The 2005 Combined Federal Campaign kicked off in Sept. 1 and runs for six weeks for all Air Education and Training Command bases.

This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and service members to contribute to more than 1,500 local, national and international nonprofit organizations.

“I want to personally encourage everyone, military and civilian, to contribute to this outstanding program,” said Gen. William R. Looney III, AETC commander. “The Combined Federal Campaign is our one great opportunity to give our support to those local, national and international non-profit organizations that help so many in times of need.”

In 2004, through the generosity of people around the world, almost \$257 million was raised and provided to charities.

The campaign was authorized in 1961 and designated as the uniform fundraiser method for the federal service in 1971. CFC is the largest workplace-charity campaign in the country.

Donors may designate which charity or charities receive their money by filling out a pledge card. Contributions can be made in cash, by check or payroll deduction.

Most important is the fact that on average, one in four federal employees or their family members will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to CFC officials.

Each AETC base has a local project officer assigned. Contact your project officer for more information or go to the CFC Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/cfc/>.

Parents must enroll newborn children in DEERS for Tricare eligibility

One of the first decisions of the parents of a newborn infant is coming up with a name for their son or daughter. As beneficiaries of the Department of Defense Military Health System, the second and most important decision to make is to enroll the newborn infant in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System as soon as possible after birth.

By enrolling a newborn in DEERS, Tricare eligibility is established for the infant, avoiding potential claims problems or other financial hardships for the family in the future. Once enrolled, the beneficiary baby will remain Tricare eligible and able to receive the essential baby and pediatric health care he or she needs.

A newborn infant is covered as a Tricare Prime beneficiary in DEERS for the first 60 days after birth—as long as one additional family member is enrolled in Tricare Prime or Tricare Prime Remote. After the initial 60 days, any claim submitted for a newborn will process as Tricare Standard until the infant is enrolled in DEERS and Tricare Prime, or the infant's Tricare Standard eligibility ends. Eligibility for Tricare Standard benefits ends 365 days after birth for

any newborn infant who is not enrolled in DEERS.

Parents and legal guardians must enroll their newborn child in DEERS as soon as possible after birth. To establish a newborn's Tricare eligibility in DEERS, parents must:

- Submit a certificate of “live birth” and a copy of a verified and approved DD Form 1172 “Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card” signed by the sponsor to their personnel office.
- Apply for their child's Social Security number. They can go to the Social Security Administration Web site, www.ssa.gov or call (800) 772-1213 for an application.
- Once the child's Social Security number is received, parents must go to the nearest identification card-issuing facility to update the child's information in DEERS.

Any changes that impact family status must be reported to DEERS. Family status changes include mar-



Courtesy photo

riage, divorce or a new child. Because DEERS enrollment is directly tied to Tricare eligibility, care may be denied if the sponsor and family members are not enrolled in DEERS.

For additional information on enrolling a newborn baby in DEERS, parents or guardians may contact or visit the 325th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office telephone center at (800) 538-9552. A list of military ID card facilities is available at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. Additional information on DEERS eligibility is available on the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

(Courtesy of the 325th Medical Support Squadron)

DOD officials announce one-year open enrollment for SBP

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Department of Defense officials announced Aug. 19 that military retirees, who opted out of some or all their Survivor Benefit Plan coverage, will have another opportunity to elect coverage during a one-year open enrollment period beginning Oct. 1 and running through Sept. 30, 2006.

Upon a retiree's death, the plan provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of the military retired pay. Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse age 62 or older was reduced to 35 percent to reflect the availability of Social Security benefits. This reduction will phase out by April 2008, and the full 55-percent benefit will be paid regardless of the spouse's age in accordance

with the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Current nonparticipants will be able to elect any coverage they could have elected previously upon retiring from active service or upon receiving notification of eligibility for Reserve retired pay at age 60.

If they have a reduced election, they may increase their coverage. A participant with child-only coverage may add a spouse or former spouse to their coverage, and a person may add child coverage to spouse or former spouse coverage.

But those who took coverage and later elected to terminate that coverage are not eligible to make an open enrollment election.

Open enrollment elections require a lump

sum buy-in premium as well as future monthly premiums. The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original eligibility to make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund. The latter amount applies almost exclusively to those paying fewer than seven years of back payments.

The lump sum buy-in premium can be paid over a two-year period. Monthly premiums for spouse or former spouse coverage will be 6.5 percent of the coverage elected, the same premium paid by those currently enrolled. Reserve component members under age 60 and not yet eligible for retired pay do not pay back premiums or interest, but must pay a monthly plan pre-

mium “add-on” once their retired pay starts.

Elections are effective the first day of the month after the election is received, but no earlier than Oct. 1. An election is void if the retiree dies in the two years following an election and all premiums are refunded to the designated survivor.

To make an open enrollment election, a retiree can complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, “Survivor Benefit Plan and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Open Enrollment Election.” The form is available electronically at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf

For assistance with the form, people can contact the Retiree Activities Office at 283-2737.

Tyndall nears housing privatization

1ST LT. J. ELAINE HUNNICUTT
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command is slated to award the privatization contract for Tyndall housing in December.

The contract award winner will be responsible for managing and maintaining the Tyndall units for 50 years.

The most competitive bidder or highest ranked offeror is currently gathering data to provide evidence that they can produce what is in their proposal within the required 5- to 7-year construction timeframe. This contender will provide AETC with operations plans, design documents and site plans in September.

Once it has been determined they can do what they have promised and have adequately met the conditions of the request for proposal to provide adequate housing on Tyndall they, the HRO, will be announced as the apparent successful offeror or ASO.

"Once the ASO is determined, the name of the company can be released publicly, and the developer's team will start working with Tyndall's housing office to assure a seamless transition to privatized housing," said Glenn Lattanze, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron housing privatization office.

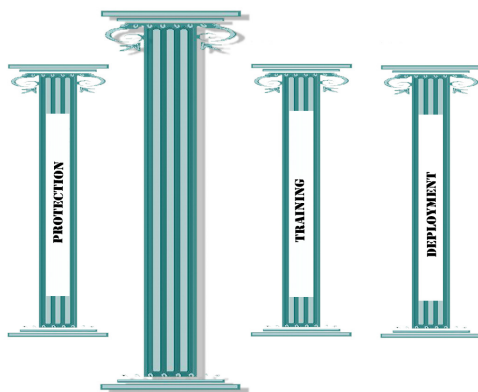
At that time, another housing town-hall meeting will be scheduled to provide more information to Tyndall's housing residents and introduce the developer's team.

"Within months of the closing, the successful offeror, or contract award winner, will start construction that will bring Tyndall's housing up to local community standards," said Mr. Lattanze.

In addition to upgrading and maintaining the housing infrastructure, the construction of core community facilities is expected to start at the same time," said Lattanze.

For more information on housing privatization, call Mr. Lattanze at 283-4712.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Did you know ...

AFPC has a section on their Web site dedicated to officer promotions. The site has a wide variety of information ranging from how to determine line number pin-on dates to when you will be below the zone, in the zone and above the zone for each promotion cycle. For those unsure of how the Management Level Review process works or whether or not the next promotion will obligate them to additional active duty service commitment, they can find out at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom/.



Checkertail Salute

Senior Master Sgt. Brenda Craig



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Sergeant Craig receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Craig, 325th Operations Support Squadron. She saved 25 aircrew members \$50,000 in conditional flight pay loss when she verified entitlements to aviation flight pay. She was handpicked by the 325th OSS commander to be president of the quarterly NCO board. She is also a mentor to middle school students.

Duty title: Host aviation resource management superintendent
Time on station: Almost two years
Time in service: Twenty years
Hometown: Roberta, Ga.
Hobbies: Spending time with my family
Favorite movie: "GI Jane"
Favorite book: AFI 11-401 and 402
Favorite thing about Tyndall: Being close to home
Pet peeves: People who don't do their jobs
Goals: To make chief
Proudest moment in the military: When I made master sergeant

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Troy Rondeau, 1st Air Force systems controller.





Students learn to control the skies

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Officers train and shadow others here to become an eye in the skies to help aircraft reach their destination safely.

After graduating from a four-month course at Keesler AFB learning air traffic control fundamentals in textbooks and on simulators, officers apply their knowledge to a 10-month on-the-job training at Tyndall.

“Here, we basically give them practical application of the basics they learn at Keesler,” said Capt. Joseph Meaux, 325th Operations Support Squadron Chief of Air Traffic Control Officer Training. “Here it is on-the-job training, from how to write an enlisted performance report to managing the airfield, this is how it is in the real world.”

Classes start about every three months and there are normally up to fifteen students at any

given time on base. With Hurricane Katrina’s effect on Keesler, there are even a few more still on base awaiting training here until their schoolhouse in Mississippi reopens.

Students begin their day with a lesson brief and time to study before they go out into the field to shadow the experts. There are three aspects of airfield operations they need to know for their ATC career field: Radar Approach Control, or RAPCON, Tower and airfield management.

During the RAPCON training, officers get certification in two positions – approach and approach-assist control. During this training, they learn how to guide military and civilian aircraft safely through the sky in a radius of 40 to 60 miles from the ATC tower. By listening in with headphones and watching the scope, students listen to how controllers converse with aircrew so they can learn phrases they will need to use

altitude from each other, which is three-miles laterally and one-thousand feet apart vertically, and guide them into the next position, either closer to or through the airspace.

“Tyndall is an ideal place to train because of the variety of aircraft and airspaces and the high ops tempo” said Lieutenant Stuart.

During tower training, officers learn the local position, where they guide arrival and departure aircraft within a five-mile radius from the tower. “We train in ‘live traffic’ for an hour to two hours each day in the tower, then we train in the tower simulator for an hour or two and do a lot of bookwork and academics,” said 2nd Lt. Owen Brickett, 325 OSS air traffic controller.

Officer student controllers are assigned a trainer, usually a junior enlisted Airman, and are able to begin directing live traffic in and around Tyndall’s airspace at the trainer’s discretion.

The third aspect of learning airfield operations involves airfield management. This job involves knowing all aspects of the airfield like aircraft parking, flight plans, Federal Aviation Administration mandated specifications, and daily flight line inspections.

“We learn how to supervise and manage the flight and all the different Air Force specialty codes,” said Lieutenant Brickett.

“At Keesler the instructors said airfield management could be eighty percent of our responsibility in this career field,” said Lieutenant Stuart.

“I think the format of the program is very beneficial to the long term success of its lieutenants,” Captain Meaux said. “Our career field has a large scope of responsibility, and this program gives them a really good foundation to build a successful career.”

Training Spotlight

What has been the most exciting part of your training so far?

“Finally getting to see an operational F-15 Eagle for the first time.”

AIRMAN BASIC
MICHAEL BATTAGLINO
372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 1
Mission Ready Airman student



Chrissy Cuttita

Second Lt. Fredrick Little, Air Traffic Control Officer Training Program student, visually surveys the runway at Tyndall.

to convey messages to pilots in the air.

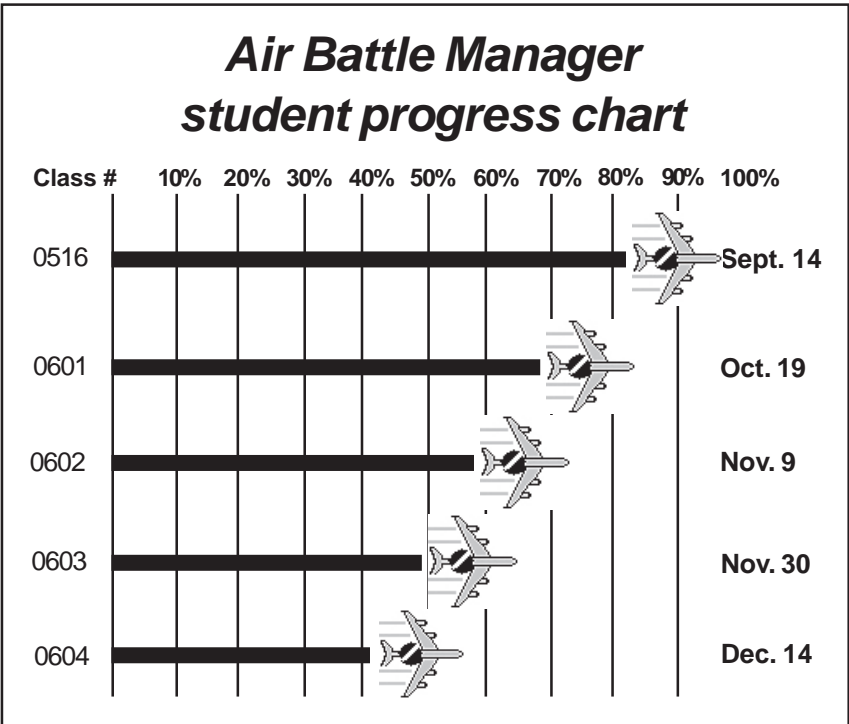
“The approach controller communicates with airborne aircraft,” said 2nd Lt. Kelly Stuart, air traffic control student. “The assist controller will coordinate between other internal RAPCON positions and adjacent air traffic agencies.”

When communicating with the pilots at the approach position, the main objective is to keep the aircraft at a safe distance and

International studies

Maj. Edson Manuel Navarro Varela, center, 325th Air Control Squadron International Air Weapons Controller student, gets some pointers from Lt. Col. Charles Lopez, 325th ACS International Flight commander, while running tactical intercepts on a tactical display framework simulator here Sept. 2. Maj Navarro Varela is from Honduras and is here as part of a 40 day training program for international students. The class graduates today.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek



Feature

Hurricane Katrina 'covered': Team



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Staff Sgt. Jason Bal, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron/Det. 1, organizes baby formula in the Red Cross Disaster Relief Shelter held at the Bay County Fairgrounds Friday.

Team Tyndall Airmen opened their arms, hearts and doors to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Members found ways to help in the area as well as deploy to the recovery areas while almost 150 evacuees who hold Department of Defense identification cards are living in base facilities, with more lodging to open up if the need rises.

"This is a difficult time for those affected by the terrible wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Our folks have joined with other agencies on the ground to give what help they can," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander. "We are ready to meet the demand and help those in need in the aftermath of this tragic disaster."

"We're not turning anyone away," said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th Services Squadron commander. "People here just feel the need to help out in some way. We'll be busy for the foreseeable future."

Tyndall had an overwhelming response from people willing to help and has activated all known avenues of support for their fellow military members and department of defense cardholders coming from the disaster area. Not only has the base populace been helping its fellow members, but Airmen have been traveling to downtown areas to help unload goods from trucks, set up cots, distribute goods and register evacuees.

At the Red Cross Shelter at the Bay County Fairgrounds, 20 members from the 325th Maintenance Squadron gathered to help in any way possible.

"You could see the change in the faces of the people when

uniforms walked in," said Tech Sgt. Jim Reagh, 325th MXS.

Staff Sgt. Luis Almodovar, 325th MXS, the base point of contact for volunteering, called the Red Cross to donate his time, and to let them know there were 400 able bodied Airmen ready to volunteer.

"I was overwhelmed by the response and good attitude I got," Sergeant Almodovar said. "I think the evacuees were overwhelmed by the response of our squadron."

He added that only 30 minutes after he sent the call-to-action e-mail to his squadron, he already had enough volunteers for the weekend.

The Red Cross took notice to the quick response as well.

"At the moment he called we were in a crisis because we were told we were going to be opening up another shelter," said Randall Josey, Red Cross disaster services coordinator. "I told him we needed 20 people, and they were here right away. I told the rest of my crew this was good because we could train these Airmen in 15 minutes what it would normally take us three hours to train anybody else, and I was right!"

When the Airmen arrived at the shelter, they were tasked to transport goods and unload the truck. Through the weekend, they will be registered new evacuees as well as provided logistical support.

"The volunteers had it done in two and a half hours," Mr. Josey said. "You would have thought they were on alert!"

Another Airman, Staff Sgt. Jason Bal, 823rd REDHORSE Squadron/Detachment 1, was also at the Red Cross shelter volunteering during a day of leave. Mr. Josey said he expects all forces to be out in full effect through the rest of the efforts at the fairgrounds.

Scattered in other parts of Panama City Airmen have been volunteering, such as Staff Sgt. Matt Kurpaski from the 43rd Fighter Squadron. He and his shop ventured out to a local radio station site at Panama City Mall where they collected goods for relief efforts. The second mission was to load goods onto a new trailer since the first trailer had collected so many goods that it cracked into the pavement.

"I heard about these efforts on the radio and I told the guys in my shop that we needed to go volunteer," said Sergeant Kurpaski.

There were also Coast Guard, Navy and a retired Air Force master sergeant helping at this event.

In the more immediate areas of need, such as Keesler AFB, Miss., thirty cooks from the 325th Services Squadron deployed to assist with hurricane relief. They are providing hot meals to more than 6,000 base personnel who stayed during the storm and those who traveled to the base to help out with the recovery effort.

Two public affairs specialists and three life skills personnel have also been sent to affected areas at Keesler AFB and Baton Rouge, La. Five AAFES employees joined counterparts in their service located at Eglin AFB and Maxwell AFB to set up a field exchange at Keesler AFB so that members of the military family can purchase basic necessities. More personnel in various career fields here are poised to deploy to additional areas in need.



Chrissy Cuttita

Master Sgt. Sandra Thornton, 325th Fighter Wing life skills flight, serves beverages at a free luncheon to evacuees at Chapel 2. Volunteers served homemade food and toys donated from various Tyndall organizations.

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Tyndall lends helping hands

base the Family Support Center opened an assistance center last week to provide an information and referral service to evacuated military and volunteers who want to help. They are the primary and sole focal point for Hurricane Katrina efforts.

We want to make sure people get the accurate information," said Master Sgt. David Brett, Mission Support Squadron. "We also have activated our Critical Incident Stress Management in case of situations where personnel have had emotional effects from the hurricane like losing a member of a family for example."

The FSC keeps a helping agency list of people and groups who are able to support in some capacity like provide school supplies for evacuated children at local schools.

The "Loan Closet" is a program at the FSC that keeps a list of furniture and other items that can be borrowed. Dish

packs, futons, and air mattresses are available for sign out. Additionally, the center has four computers available for use. FEMA has a web site that can track down members who identified themselves as evacuated from the affected areas. The contact number for the FSC is 283-4205 and calls will carry over to three lines other if the primary is busy.

Families who evacuated to Tyndall have access to all the amenities the base can offer to include dining hall service and child care. Legal and finance briefings are scheduled for 1 p.m. today and Monday at the 325th Air Control Squadron auditorium to inform evacuated families about their entitlements to help families understand their entitlements. The base clinic is setting aside times for medical appointments to anyone who calls in and says they are an evacuee. Prescriptions can also be filled at the pharmacy.

For updated information about Tyndall programs that apply to evacuees, call the Tyndall Straight Talk Center toll free at (877) 529-5540.

For more information about Keesler AFB, log on to www.keesler.af.mil. Family members and dependents can contact the Air Force Personnel Center at (800) 435-9941 for information about the status of people assigned to Keesler.

(Compiled by 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Second Lt. Betsy Scott, 325th Air Control Squadron, gives shelter and assistance information to an evacuee of Hurricane Katrina. The Family Support Center will be manned 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week until evacuees' needs are met.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Sgt. Matt Kurpaski, 43rd Fighter Squadron, hands a package of bottled water to John Burton, Air Force retiree, during a local station donation drive. The truck needed to be unloaded because it collapsed the cement below due to collecting so much water.



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

Members from the 325th Maintenance Squadron work together to stack water and other goods in the distribution room of the local Red Cross Shelter. Twenty members from the squadron went to the fairgrounds Friday. The squadron also sent more volunteers out this weekend to help where needed and anticipates sending volunteers until relief needs have been met. Staff Sgt. Luis Almodovar is the base point of contact for volunteering.

Briefs

Retiree Appreciation Days change

Retiree Appreciation Days will be held Nov. 4 and 5. All retirees are invited to attend. For more information on events and activities going on that day, call the Retiree Activities Office at 283-2737.

Family Support Center

The FSC has computers available for use to check personal e-mail and information research. They also have the FSC Loan Closet, with dish packs, air mattresses and baby materials available for checkout. For more information on this or on Tyndall and the Panama City area, call 283-4204 or visit the FSC in Bldg. 745.

Munitions Storage Area closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be closed to all customers from Monday through Sept. 16 due to a 100 percent closed warehouse inventory. All munitions customers should project their needs accordingly and plan ahead for this closure. Only valid emergency issues will be processed during this period. For more information, call munitions accountability at 283-4010 or 283-2374.

Troy University

Troy University will begin Web registration for Term II Monday continuing through Oct. 9. For more information, call 283-4449.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link session at Tyndall is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Enlisted Club. Heart Link is an orientation program full of information that can benefit every Air Force spouse. Spouses of permanent party members or students are invited to attend this free program. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

Sexual assault reporting

The DOD is committed to ensuring safety and dignity. As part of that endeavor, people may now report allegations of sexual assault to specified personnel without triggering an investigation or involving their chain of command. This confidential reporting must be made to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, a health care provider, a trained Victim Advocate or a chaplain. Tyndall's Response Line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 625-1231. For



Lisa Norman

more information on sexual assault, call Tyndall's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 283-8192 or visit the United States DOD Sexual Assault and Response home page at www.sapr.mil.

Tricare Hurricane Katrina Web page

The Tricare Management Activity's Hurricane Katrina Web page is now live. The Web address is www.tricare.osd.mil/HurricaneKatrina/index.cfm. For health care inquiries, call the Tricare contractor toll-free at (800) 444-5445 or the clinic Tricare operations office at 283-7331.

Bioenvironmental hours change

The 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron's bioenvironmental engineering flight's duty hours will change to 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information, call 283-7139.

Gym floor closed

The Fitness Center's gym floor will be closed until Sept. 27 for resurfacing. For more information, call 283-2631.

Commissary orders, sale

Many Commissary customers have been buying various items for the relief efforts. Unfortunately, many people are buying everything on the shelves. The Commissary asks it patrons to place a special order for their items they are going to buy in bulk to alleviate the problem of running out of items until the next delivery arrives.

Also, the Commissary is having a case lot sale beginning Sept. 16. There will be a

barbecue for the base community from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 17. There will be hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and ice cream. All Hurricane Katrina evacuees are invited to come to this event.

Fall Craft Bazaar

The Eglin AFB, Fla., Officers' Spouses' Club is having its 20th Annual Fall Craft Bazaar 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Niceville Community Center, in Niceville, Fla. There will be a chance to win door prizes.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. The Airman's Attic is designed to help reduce some cost of living expenses by providing donated household items or new items purchased with cash donations to eligible military members. The generosity of Team Tyndall has allowed the staff to extend this service from senior airman and below to staff sergeant and below. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 or the Family Support Center at 283-4204 for more information.

Thrift Shop hours

The Officers' Spouses' Club Thrift shop will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Normal operating hours are Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with consignments on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743 on Suwannee Drive across from the Base Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.

Service with a smile

Airmen Basic Seth Byington, left, and Tim Noel receive a plate of food from Anchalee Mapliansri at the Berg-Liles Dining Facility's Airman Barbecue Sept. 2. The dining facility has other special meals throughout the year, including birthday and holiday meals.



Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Muslim services

Dhuhr Prayer, Monday-Thursday, Spiritual Maintenance building near the flightline
Jumauh services, 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month, Spiritual Maintenance building near flightline



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Gotcha!

Airman Jacob Cullers, 325th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate military justice paralegal, grabs the red flag of Col. Jim Pollard Air Force Research Lab/Detachment 2 commander, during a flag football game here Wednesday. Contracting won 20-6 over Air Force Civil Service Agency.

Tyndall picks come in, Pig-Prog picks some out

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR
From the waters of the sound

Ah, football. The sweet smell of the grass, the rough texture of the ball and the crushing feeling in your lungs as some 350 pound linebacker hits you like a runaway freight train.

Well, for me it's actually more like the buttery smell of popcorn, the rough texture of potato chips and a sinking feeling when I realize there's no more bean dip.

But I digress.

It seems like everyone took my advice and picked New England. Like that was a hard one; Tom Brady and his team are golden.

I was going to pick the Texans over the Bills, but then I remembered Houston's miserable performance in the preseason. Even though Buffalo has a very young quarterback, they have a No. 2 defense and home-field advantage going for them.

I foresee the Seahawks prevailing

over the Jaguars this Sunday. Yes, the webfooted Seattleites are coming down to hot and humid Florida, but their defense doesn't usually start to fold until midseason. Plus they're bringing quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and running back Shaun Alexander with them.

I have got to hand it to the NCO Academy team: They picked San Francisco to beat St. Louis. With the 49er's record at 2 - 14 last season, their winning would surprise the heck out of me. In fact, if they win, I'll put a flowery poem about football right here in next week's article. And no one wants to see that.

Well, ladies and gents, you've heard my side, now let's hear yours. Send me your thoughts on games, why you think your squadron has the better pickers, etc. Send all comments to editor@tyndall.af.mil, and it just may get published in my article in the Gulf Defender.

Now let's go watch some football!

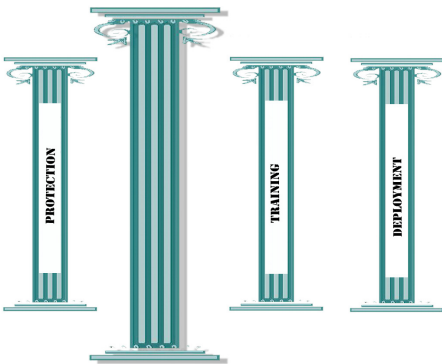
Pig-Prog's picks

Week 1
Sept. 8
New England v. Oakland

Sep. 11
Minnesota v. Tampa Bay
Denver v. Miami
Pittsburgh v. Tennessee
Washington v. Chicago
Carolina v. New Orleans
Seattle v. Jacksonville
Buffalo v. Houston
Cincinnati v. Cleveland
Kansas City v. NY Jets
Green Bay v. Detroit
San Diego v. Dallas
St. Louis v. San Francisco
Arizona v. NY Giants
Baltimore v. Indianapolis

Sept. 12
Philadelphia v. Atlanta
Total score: 38

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Football

American			
Team	W	L	Tie
43rd AMU	2	0	0
OSS	1	0	0
AFCESA	1	1	0
MXS	0	1	1
1st AMU	0	0	0
53rd WEG	0	0	0
83rd FWS	0	0	0
CPTS	0	2	0



National

Team	W	L	Tie
601st EAOG	1	0	0
ACS	1	0	0
CES	2	1	0
TEST	0	0	1
SFS	0	0	0
SVS	0	0	0
MDG	0	1	0
CONS	0	1	0
COMM	0	1	0



Golf

Team	Points
CES	59.5
AMXS	51
372nd TRS	48
AFCESA	47.5
CS1	43.5
601st EAOG	42
MSS	40
OSS	38.5
SVS	34
CONR1	32
53rd WEG	28.5
RHS	26
MXS	26
ACS	25.5
CONR2	23
CS2	18



Tricare unveils extended health care option

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFP) — Tricare’s Extended Care Health Option is now available for beneficiaries of active-duty family members with defined qualifying conditions.

Beneficiaries currently receiving care through the Program for Persons with Disabilities and not qualified for ECHO will continue care through Tricare program options.

This new program delivers financial assistance and additional benefits, including supplies and services, beyond those available within Tricare Prime, Tricare Standard or Tricare Extra. The benefit also increases the monthly government cost share from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per eligible family member. Additionally, homebound beneficiaries may qualify for extended in-home health care.

Active-duty family members with one of the following conditions may qualify for ECHO benefits:

- Moderate or severe mental retardation.
- A serious physical disability.
- An extraordinary physical or psychological condition of such complexity that the beneficiary is homebound.

Multiple disabilities involving two or more separate body systems may result in a qualifying condition determination.

The health option requires all eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the exceptional family member program of their sponsors’ military service and to register with their regional contractor or Overseas Tricare Area Office to

obtain ECHO benefit authorization.

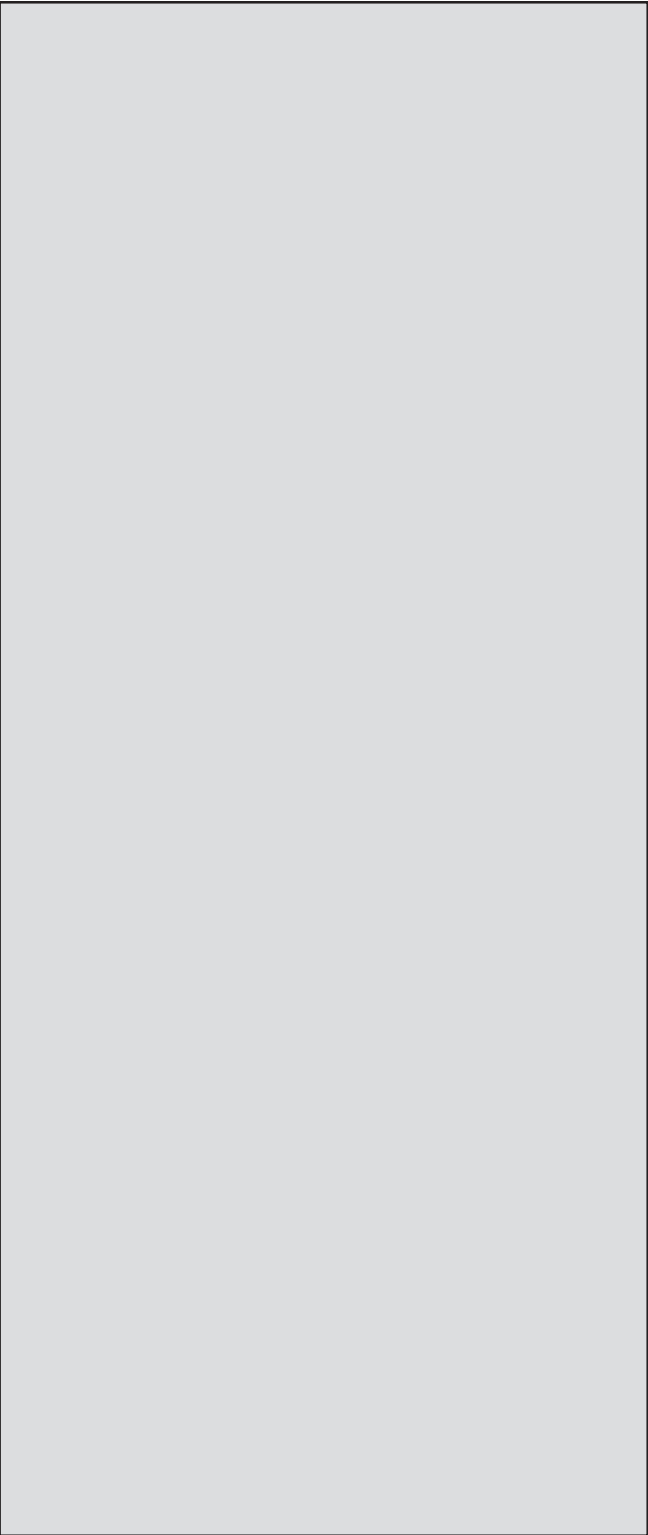
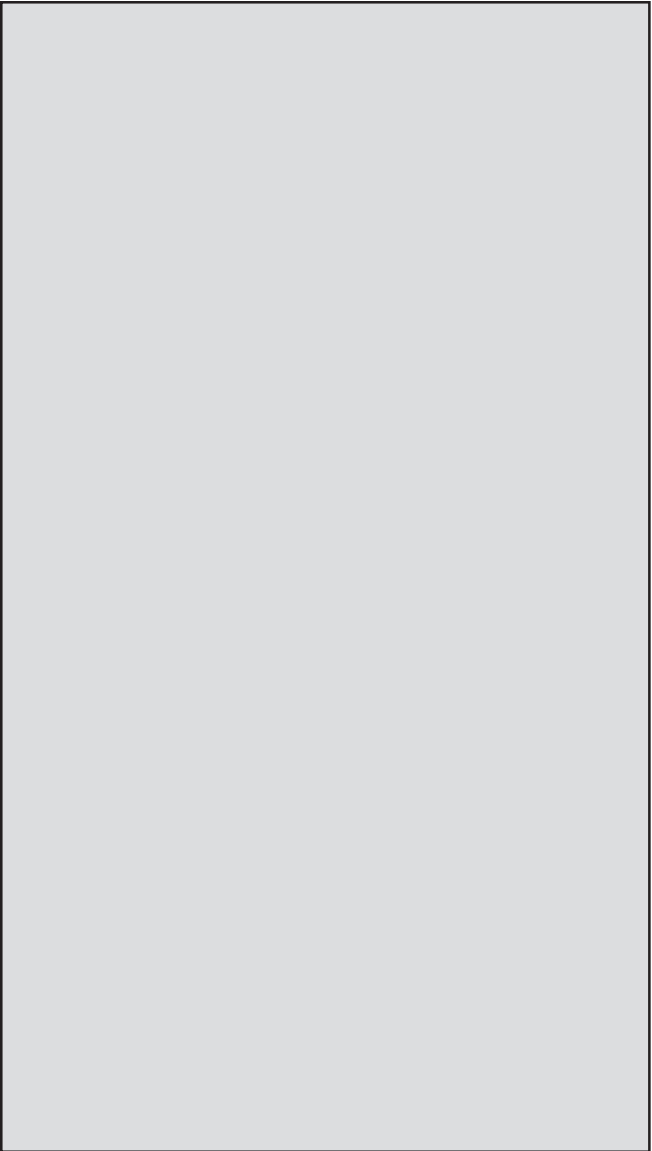
To complete exceptional family member program enrollment, eligible beneficiaries must obtain a DD form 2792, medical summary, and/or DD form 2792-1, special education/early intervention summary, and submit the forms to their special needs coordinator for processing.

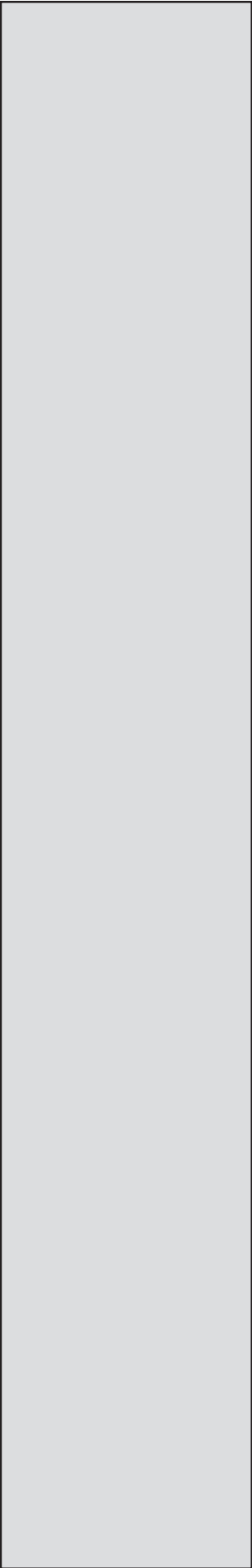
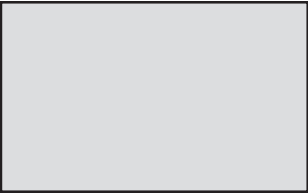
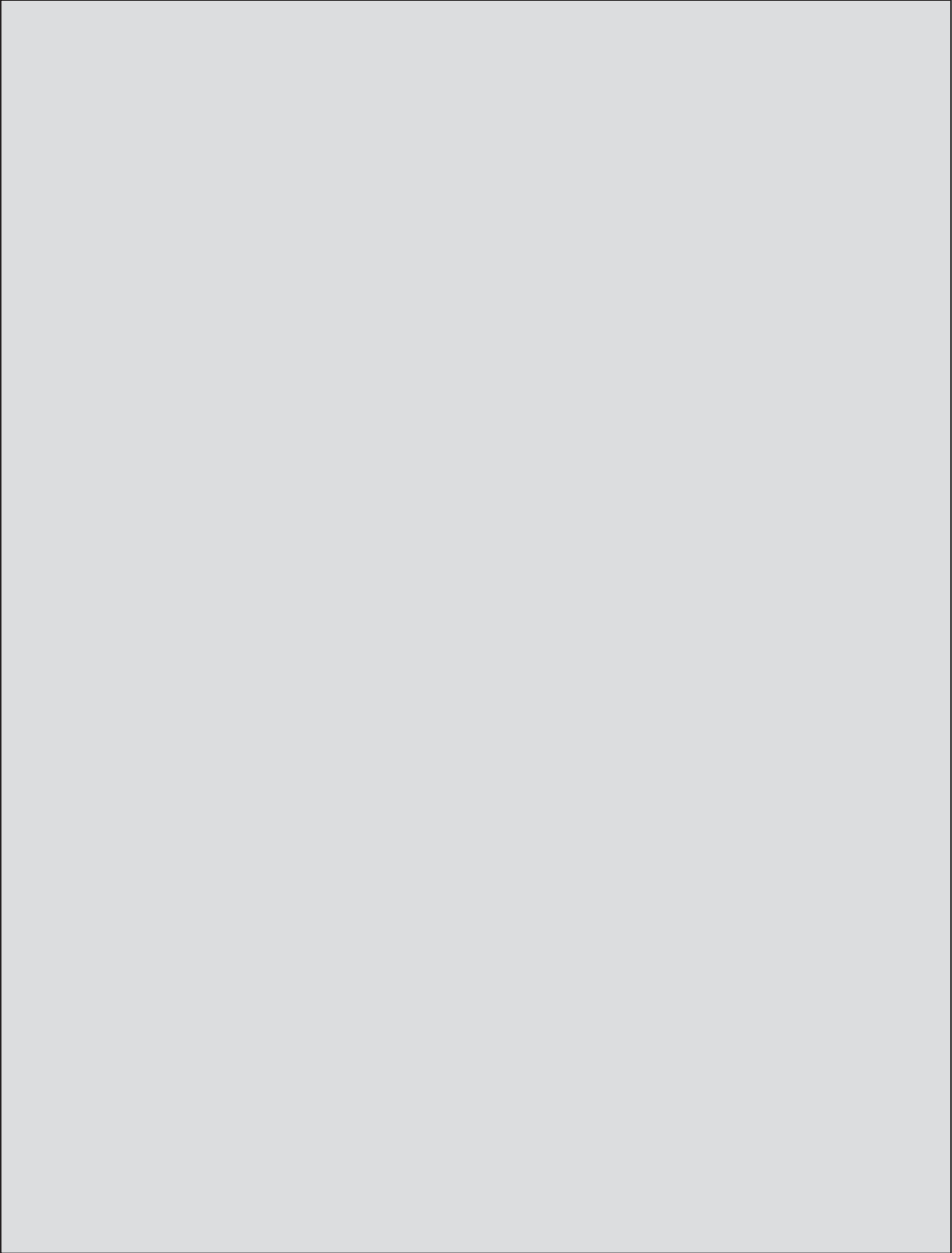
Upon completion of enrollment, the sponsor must then show proof of enrollment to the regional contractor for registration into the ECHO program. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System will then be updated to indicate the beneficiary is eligible.

Beneficiaries must use public funds or programs first to the extent they are available and adequate for ECHO benefits related to training, rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology devices, institutional care in private, nonprofit, public, state institutions or other medical facilities and if appropriate, transportation to and from such institutions and facilities.

For more information about ECHO benefits, eligibility requirements, updates, and EFMP registration, beneficiaries may refer to the ECHO Fact Sheet, or visit the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/echo. Beneficiaries may also the Tricare Regional Office North at (877) 874-2273, TRO South at (800) 444-5445, or TRO West (888) 874-9378. Overseas beneficiaries may call (888) 777-8343.

(Courtesy of Tricare Management Activity)





Spouses learn about AF through Heart Link

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Spouses of Air Force members should mark their calendars to attend the next Heart Link session scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Enlisted Club.

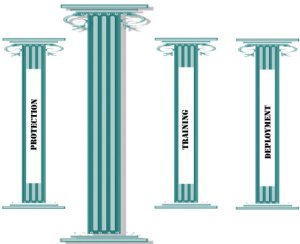
Heart Link is an orientation program full of information that can benefit every Air Force spouse, especially those new to the military community, said Catherine Tarrant, Tyndall Heart Link administrator.

“The spouses learn what resources are available to them, and they get to meet people from various agencies on base,” she said. “They learn how their spouse impacts the overall Air Force mission as a Team Tyndall member.”

In addition to learning useful information, attendees will get to meet other spouses in a fun and comfortable environment.

“Many of the spouses have so much fun that they want to come back again and again,” Ms. Tarrant said. “And we invite them to come back because their enthusiasm is contagious.”

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



2nd Lt. William Powell

Spouses of Tyndall members eagerly raise their hands to answer a question during a game of Jeopardy at a recent Heart Link session here. Heart Link is a fun, informative way for spouses to learn more about the Air Force.

Those who do return become mentors, who help make the other spouses feel comfortable and can help answer questions.

“I want to be able to share my experiences with spouses and let them know they can have a blast and still be a military spouse,” said Michelle Ritsema, who attended the last Heart Link and will be a mentor for the Sept. 16 session. “I also want to let them know there is a huge support structure here for spouses and to enjoy the opportunities the Air Force gives them. On top of all that, I’m coming back (as a mentor) because I had a really good time and was able to meet some really neat people.”

Heart Link is designed for spouses who have been married to a servicemember for five years or less, but all spouses are welcome, even the military member, said Ms. Tarrant.

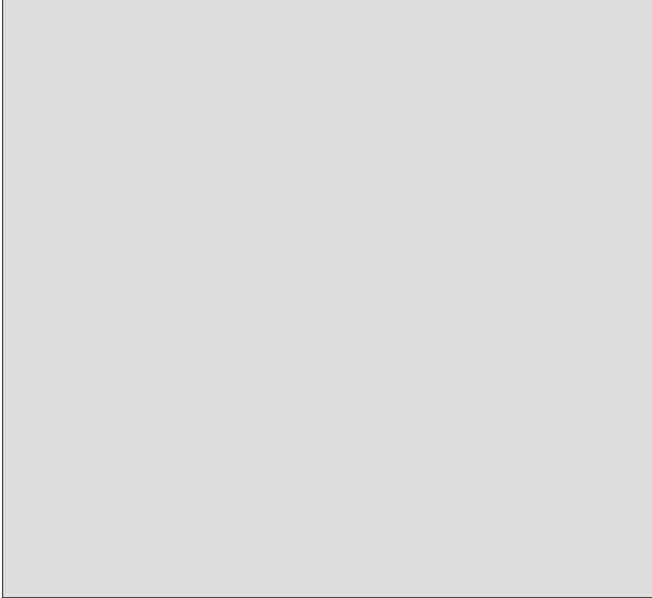
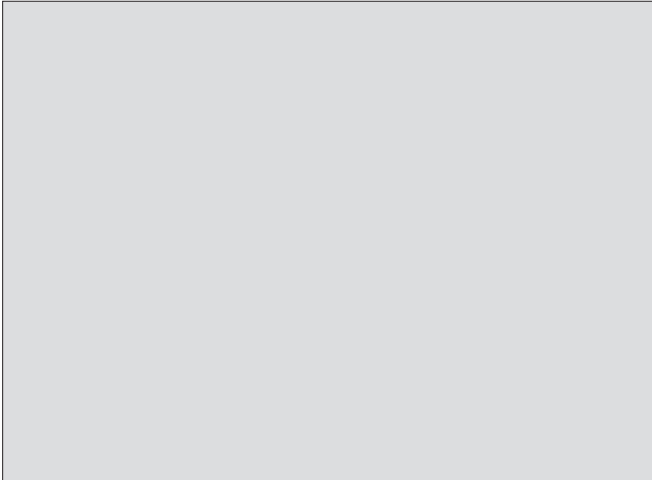
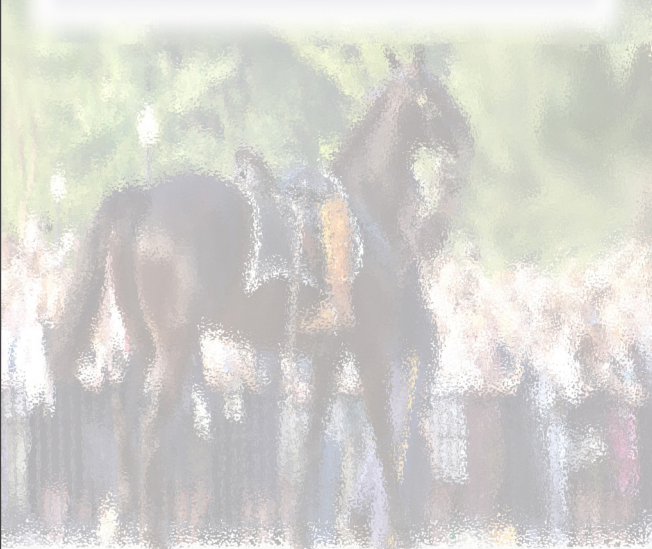
“Some spouses of servicemembers who are about to retire have attended and said they learned something new,” she said.

Heart Link includes free breakfast, lunch and child care. The sessions occur approximately five times a year. The next session after Sept. 16 is scheduled for sometime in November.

For more information or to sign up, contact the Family Support Center at 283-4204.

Tyndall POW/MIA Day events

Tyndall will pay tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action from all past wars during POW/MIA Day Sept. 16. The day’s events will start at 11:30 a.m. with a luncheon at the Enlisted Club. At 1:30 p.m. a group of those POWs participating in the luncheon will take a tour of the base. After the tour, there will be a memorial service at 3:15 p.m. in Chapel One. The Retreat Ceremony will directly follow the memorial service and will be held at 4 p.m. at Flag Park. There will be parking behind Chapel One. For more information about the memorial service, call 283-2925.



Retreat ceremony not just for students

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

At the end of every duty day here all personnel have the opportunity to participate in one traditional Air Force ceremony — retreat.

Starting at 5 p.m., the National Anthem is played and the U.S. flag is lowered from the flag pole at Flag Park. It signals the end of the duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to our nation’s colors.

In addition, both the Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy conduct reveille and retreat drill with their students daily when class is in session.

“Usually reveille will start at 6:45 a.m., so I would recommend that units plan their physical fitness tests on the track by our building prior to 6:30 a.m. or after our class start time of 7 a.m.,” said Master Sgt. Stephen Ramos, Tyndall NCO Academy Profession of Arms Division Superintendent. “We also have retreat any time from 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.”

During the times the schools raise and lower their flag, persons on base are also responsible to render the proper customs and courtesies even though they are not necessarily a part of the school formation.

Customs and courtesies apply to everyone on base during times of reveille and retreat. Air Force military customs and courtesies are proven traditions that explain what should and should not be done in many situations. They are acts of respect and courtesy.

“Very few Airmen today get the chance to participate in this Air Force tradition,” said Staff Sgt. Jacob Peeterse, ALS flight instructor. “We give each student the chance to do it at least twice while they are here so they can see the importance of honoring the flag at the beginning and end of our school day.”

“It is a part of our Air Force culture and it pays honor to what it is we are called to do as NCOs,” said Sergeant Ramos.

Procedures used when showing respect to the flag and the national anthem include all movement to stop on base during retreat outdoors. All vehicles in motion should come to a stop at the first note of the music and the occupants should sit quietly until the music ends. At that same musical note, all personnel in uniform who aren’t in formation should stand and face the flag, or the sound of the music if the flag is not visible, and hold a salute until the last note of the music is played. Persons in civilian clothes should also stop, face the flag, or the sound of the music if the flag is not visible, and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart.


If a person is indoors during retreat or reveille, they do not need to stand or salute.

Personnel on base can call to find out exact reveille and retreat times from the schools. The NCO Academy can be reached at 283-3228 and ALS can be reached at 283-2283.



2nd Lt. Betsy Scott


NCO Academy students lower the flag during a retreat ceremony here.



This week in Air Force history ...

Sept. 4, 1922: First U.S. transcontinental air crossing made in one day.

Sept. 5, 1923: Two condemned naval vessels sunk by Army bombing tests.





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Fitness Swim
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Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129 Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to (850) 283-3225.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

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Item description (One ad per form)

(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes ☐ No ☐

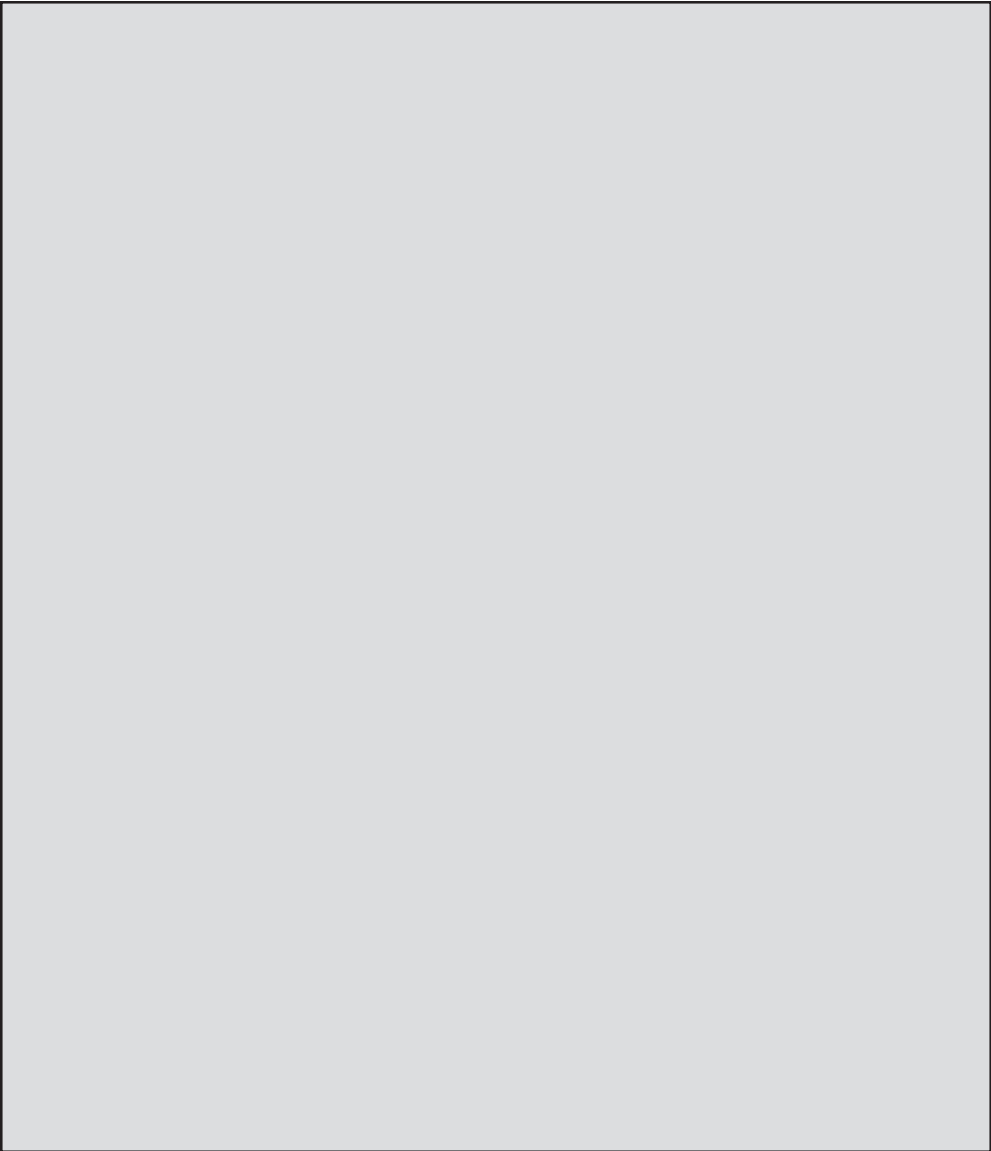
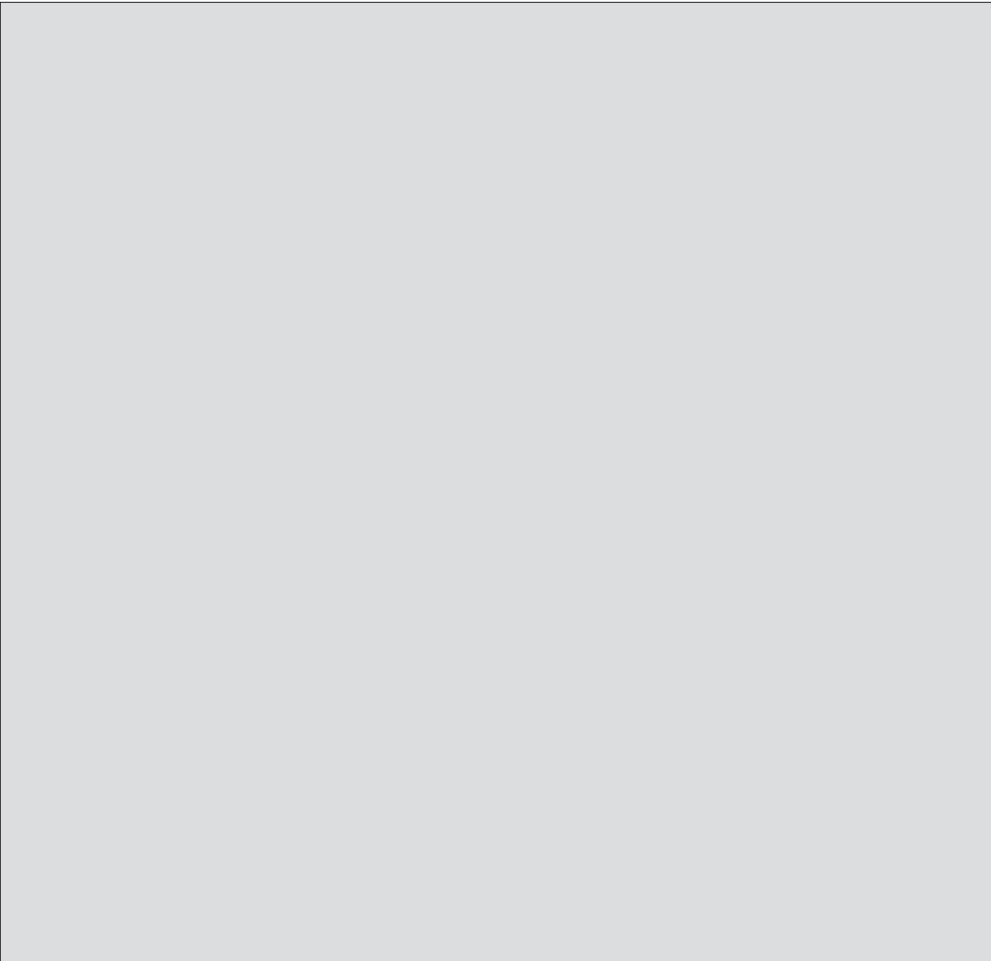
Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments:



● **FROM RIGHTS PAGE 3** stitution. There is little doubt that Air Force members respect the Constitution as a whole. We have sworn to give our lives in its defense. With such a love for such a thing, it is important not to pick and chose which parts to lend credibility. While the amendment may not read as plainly, it states that no one “shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.”

Knowing the origin of Article 31 rights should provide more than sufficient credibility required for their adequate respect. To deny respect for such rights is tantamount to denying respect to the very foundation of the Constitution. We cannot and should not pick and chose parts of the Constitution to respect. It must be respected as a whole.

Once understood and respected by all members, its application would no longer be an issue. No longer would there be justification or excuses for not strictly observing the liberties of others. Of course, any liberty of another automatically imposes some restraint on those around them. However, only through restraint can liberty exist.

If any Air Force member has any questions regarding their rights, it is incumbent upon them and their supervisors to assure that they speak with my office. We can be reached at 283-2911 or at tyndall.adc@tyndall.af.mil.

● **FROM RELIEF PAGE 6** said.

Also, more than 40 international students and some 30 of their family members have already evacuated to Maxwell so they can return to their home countries, the general said.

That leaves people assigned to Keesler who live on and off the base. The general said base officials are handling their cases individually.

Those with no damage to their homes may elect to stay at the base until they receive an assignment. Or they may elect to go to an AETC base that can lodge them – like Maxwell – to await reassignment. People with destroyed homes are living in Keesler temporary lodging while they wait to resolve their situation. They, too, will then evacuate to an interim base. And in some cases people who lost their homes may elect to return to their home of records to await resolution of their status, the general said.

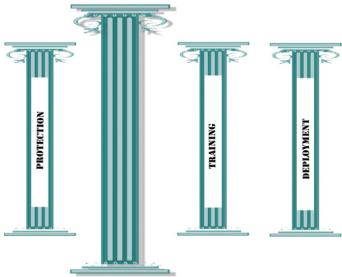
The Air Force has cancelled all assignments to Keesler, the general said. And, he said, people assigned to the base — who have not returned — should not return. Instead, they should call the number to the Air Force Personnel Center Personnel readiness center for instructions at (800) 435-9941.

The general said base officials are being sensitive to the immediate needs of Airmen and their families.

The main goal, he said, is to ensure Airmen have a say in their future and on how to best take care of their families as “we get them back into the mainstream of our Air Force.”

As the base comes back to life, outside the base gates – what’s left of them – there is disorder like never before. In many

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



places along the ravaged Gulf Coast, chaos and anarchy are the rule. Armed looters pillage at will and snipers take shots at rescue crews. Keesler did not escape that reality and, at one time, Airmen had to stop looters from getting on the base.

People are talking of leveling New Orleans. And the city of Biloxi, for decades the partner that helped the base, now relies on its uniformed neighbors for the sustenance of life.

But as the people at the Gulf Coast base try to recover from the horrors brought by the storm, they are already moving on.

General Lord, who lost all his belongings when a 22-foot wall of water smashed through his on-base home, said Keesler will recover. And it is because of the people and their extraordinary resiliency.

“Keesler will rebound. I’m not certain what Keesler’s mission will be,” General Lord said. “But certainly the people here are prepared to plan it to be better and stronger that we ever were.”

General Lord said Biloxi and other communities close to the base are already getting help from the base. The hurricane hit the communities hard and some do not have electricity and clean water. The base has little reserves to give.

“But we’re taking what little we have and sharing it with our friends,” he said.

